



CONNECTICUT

**TESTIMONY OF
ANDY MARKOWSKI, STATE DIRECTOR
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS (NFIB)
SUPPORTING
HB-5498, AAC THE REVIEW OF EXISTING AGENCY REGULATIONS
BEFORE THE
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
MARCH 7, 2016**

A non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB is Connecticut's and the nation's leading small-business association. In Connecticut, NFIB represents thousands of members and their employees. NFIB membership is scattered across the state and ranges from sophisticated high technology enterprises to "Main Street" small businesses to single-person "Mom & Pop" shops that operate in traditional ways. NFIB's mission is "To promote and protect the right of its members to own, operate, and grow their businesses." On behalf of those small- and independent- job-providers in Connecticut, NFIB/Connecticut offers the following comments:

NFIB/Connecticut strongly supports HB-5498. This legislation would provide an update and enhancement to long-standing statutes regarding the procedure for review of existing agency regulations. This legislation would help provide for a manageable process in which legislative committees of cognizance interact with the Regulations Review Committee on a regular basis to review existing regulations for issues of conflict, obsolescence, effectiveness or areas of concern or complaint.

It is our understanding that regulatory review procedures currently contained in C.G.S. Sec. 4-189i have not occurred in recent years. This is unfortunate because these types of reviews and subsequent considerations of regulatory efficacy and impact can not only go a long way toward creating regulatory relief for those small businesses that may be impacted the most, but it can also benefit state agencies in their own administrative and regulatory burden. Therefore we believe that this legislation will help clarify and streamline how that process is supposed to work in an attempt to have it occur on a regular basis as originally intended. Specifically, by ensuring that the public hearings take place as contemplated in statute, it will allow for small business owners and others who may act as the "eyes and ears" of the regulated community to provide input to the legislative branch and discuss specific regulatory matters of regulatory concern. Furthermore, the clear direction that may be provided by the legislature as contemplated in the new language in lines 64-65 of the bill ("recommend the enactment of legislation to amend or repeal existing regulations") will also be helpful to ensure that the committees of cognizance and the entire legislature as a whole plays a meaningful and continuing role in the regulatory review process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and NFIB urges support for this measure.